

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney District of Maine

100 Middle Street 6th Floor, East Tower Portland, ME 04101

(207) 780-3257 TTY (207) 780-3060 Fax (207) 780-3304 www.usdoj.gov/usao/me

For Immediate Release April 16, 2008

Contact: Evan Roth Assistant U.S. Attorney Tel: (207) 780-3257

HENRIETTA GOODALL HOSPITAL SETTLES FEDERAL HEALTH CARE BILLING ISSUES

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby today announced a civil settlement with **Henrietta Goodall Hospital** ("the hospital"), located in Sanford, Maine.

The settlement involved improper billings to the Medicare program. As part of the settlement, the hospital paid a total of **\$1,150,000** in full satisfaction of any outstanding claims.

The government alleged that in 2003 and 2004, the hospital overcharged Medicare for the following so-called "J-Code" drugs and "Q-Code" services: (1) Herceptin, which is used to treat breast cancer; (2) Tenecteplase, a clot buster used for heart attack patients; (3) Paclitaxel, which is used for chemotherapy; and (4) various chemotherapy infusion services. According to the government, at the time the improper Medicare billing occurred, the hospital's prior management knew or should have known the billing was improper because the billing irregularities had been identified by certain former employees, but the hospital failed to take the necessary corrective action.

The investigation began when, in June of 2005, government agents discovered the improprieties based on a review of computerized billing data, which was then confirmed by a review of patient and hospital records. When government agents informed the hospital of those findings, the hospital's current management fully cooperated in performing a self-audit, which confirmed that it had overbilled Medicare \$892,854.14.

The settlement ends an investigation that was conducted by the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

U.S. Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by all of those involved.